

## What is composting?

Composting is a natural process that breaks down organic material, such as wet household garbage and yard waste, into a rich soil-like product called "compost" or "humus." This process can be stimulated through controlled mixing of organic material with moisture and air.

Every year our proposed composting program will divert about 30,000 tonnes of waste from landfill. It will create a valuable soil conditioner that helps soil hold moisture, nutrients and air.

It will be made available in bulk to:

- ▶ commercial landscape contractors;
- ▶ land reclamation specialists;
- ▶ parks and recreation departments;
- ▶ homeowners;
- ▶ commercial gardeners;
- ▶ farmers;
- ▶ sod farmers, and
- ▶ mushroom growers.

Other local uses include rehabilitation of abandoned excavations, and in forest regeneration.

## A timetable for our composting program

	Tentative Dates
Public Consultation	November 1990 – January 1991
Regional Council Approval	January 1991
Application to Ministry of the Environment for Certificate of Approval	February 1991
Receive Certificate of Approval from Ministry of the Environment, Other Municipal Permits	April 1991
Start Construction	October 1991
Complete Construction	February 1992
Start Operations	March 1992

*For more information on Hamilton-Wentworth's proposed municipal composting program contact:*



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# Hamilton-Wentworth's Proposed Composting Facility.

*Another opportunity for  
our community to further  
reduce the amount  
of waste going  
to landfill.*

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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



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## Why do we need composting?

In response to public demand and growing pressure on our waste management system, Hamilton-Wentworth proposes to develop a municipal composting program for the region.

Our proposed program will complement the many initiatives already under way. Composting municipal solid waste will add to – *but will not replace* – backyard composting: it will enable people in homes, apartments and businesses, who are unable to compost, to participate. It will also make it possible for us to compost materials that backyard composting cannot handle.

We will all be able to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.



## A good neighbour

Our proposed municipal composting plant will meet all federal, provincial and municipal requirements.

### *Odour Control*

The plant will be enclosed to contain any natural odour caused by the composting process.

### *Quality Control*

Separation of non-compostable materials, such as metal, glass and plastic occurs throughout the process. Operations will be closely monitored to create a consistent, high quality, sanitized product.

### *Environmental Controls*

The process has no hazardous emissions, nor does it risk contaminating groundwater, producing dust or loud noise. Because it diverts material from landfill and produces a rich soil conditioner, it actually improves our environment.

### *Traffic Impact*

Total traffic into and out of the site will not change.

### *Quality of Site*

The site will be landscaped to blend with its surroundings.

## How will our program operate?

- ▶ Recyclables go in your blue box or to the recycling depot.
- ▶ Large articles should be taken to a transfer station or left for special curbside pick-up.
- ▶ Hazardous waste should continue to be set aside for the household hazardous waste program.
- ▶ All other garbage is put in your usual container for regular curbside pick-up.

The composting program takes care of the rest.

*The proposed composting plant will be self-contained, and will be built beside the Dundas Transfer Station which already receives curbside collected waste.*

